

churches destroyed by the fires, we must also be certain to protect their ability to insure themselves against this violence in the future. We cannot allow the insurer's fear of a claim to remove a congregation's ability to adequately protect its house of worship and support buildings. Our churches must be held harmless and not subject to punitive measures from the insurance companies.

By prohibiting policy cancellations, the Church Insurance Protection Act will extinguish the final smoldering ember that continues to threaten our churches long after the fires were put out.

We are currently joined in our efforts by 18 of our colleagues and we are confident that this number will grow as more become familiar with the continued need for this important legislation. We urge our colleagues to act promptly to bring this important legislation to the full House for consideration.

America's houses of prayer are sacred places, and they deserve this protection.

**A TRIBUTE TO MY GOOD FRIEND
LARRY CHANEY, FAREWELL**

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, April 20, 1997, marked a sad day in the history of southern Illinois. A good man, who served as mayor of Pana, IL, and my good friend, Larry Chaney passed away from an unexpected heart attack.

Larry was just recently reelected mayor and he was a man most comfortable serving his constituents. During his early tenure in office, he brought a new water treatment plant and convinced two businesses to relocate in Pana's Industrial Park, stirring new business and encouraging new economic growth in the area. Larry also helped developed this beautiful region of Illinois with a bicycle-hiking trail along an old railroad pass between Pana and Taylorville. Before he was mayor he served 10 years as alderman in Pana's Second Ward.

Larry's success can be attributed to his dedication and hard work, as well as the support he received from his family. They were the backbone to his career and his family's togetherness is an inspiration to all of us in southern Illinois. He is survived by his wife, Janet Koontz; son, Larry Sean Chaney; daughter, Michelle Lebon; grandchildren, Adam, Amy, Chelsy, Brittany, and Zachary; and two sisters, Marilyn Uteg and Shirley Campbell. Mr. Speaker, southern Illinois is mourning a great loss. No one could ever replace Larry Chaney. I wish to express my condolences to the family—we know that his predecessor has big shoes to fill. It has been an honor to represent Larry and the city of Pana in the U.S. Congress.

**GOVERNOR'S ART MEDALLION FOR
ART SCHOLARS**

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional group of young individ-

uals from my community who are being awarded the Governors Arts Scholars Medallion. This is the highest distinction awarded to high school students for their work in the arts. Receipt of this award represents a culmination of years of dedication, hard work, and a love of the arts.

The young artists receiving this award are students in the California State School for the Arts. This school is made up of 500 students recommended by their schools and selected from a rigorous competition. The school represents a unique blend of the private and public sectors working together and the results over the last decade have been fantastic. Through this school's programs, student's natural artistic gifts are cultivated by experts in fields ranging from sculpture to dance. Students come from across the State and for the month, they study together, all geographic, economic, and social barriers are brought down and replaced by a mutual love of the arts.

I would like to recognize the students from my district, Steven Goldin, Sharon Fatoorechi, Tiffany Braun, Destiny Wood, Adriana McPhee, Sarah Nehamen, Julia Katz, Victoria Keen, Andrasta VanGaea, Kendelle Hoyer, Kiwana Johnston, Gena Rabinowitz, Janelle Sutherland, Karen Velas, Maureen Shampine, David Guillen, and Javier Serrato. I look forward to meeting these young men and women, and enjoying the fruit of their talents for years to come.

The California Summer School for the Arts is an exceptional program bringing together professional artists and talented young people into a synergistic relationship. The importance of maintaining a thriving legacy of art can not be undervalued, as Henry James wrote, "It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes importance, for our consideration and application of these things, and I know of no substitute whatever for the force and beauty of its process."

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent such outstanding young people, as they are truly the future of this great nation.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO INCREASE THE STANDARD
MILEAGE RATE DEDUCTION FOR
CHARITABLE USE OF AUTO-
MOBILES**

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, because voluntarism plays so important a role in this country, I rise today to introduce legislation that will, in a small way, assist people who give their time and efforts to charitable organizations.

Americans are a giving people, Mr. Speaker. Whether volunteering at a veterans nursing home, helping to deliver meals to the homebound elderly, helping a child learn to read, or helping entire nations ravaged by famine or strife, I think it speaks well of our society that we are so readily willing and able to help our neighbors in need.

There are ways in which the Federal Government can help promote voluntarism, including the use of the Tax Code. In 1984, Congress passed legislation that set a standard

mileage deduction rate of 12 cents per mile for persons who use their own automobiles in the course of supporting the work of charitable organizations. This was an important step to offset the out-of-pocket costs of those who use their cars for volunteer work.

Over a decade later, however, the mileage deduction rate remains at 12 cents per mile, despite the fact that the deductibility of mileage expenses for the business use of automobiles has risen over the years to 31.5 cents per mile. The legislation that I introduce today corrects this oversight and raises the deduction for volunteers to 18 cents per mile, the same ratio between the charitable and business deductions which existed in 1984. My bill also takes the next step by giving the Secretary of the Treasury the authority to adjust the deduction for volunteers each year to reflect changes in costs, authority which is lacking under current law.

Mr. Speaker, it should be the policy of our Government to support and promote voluntarism, and this legislation does just that. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

**HONORING WAKEFIELD GRACE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is well known that churches are often not only the spiritual centers of communities but also the centers of gravity which hold them together. For 110 years the Wakefield Grace United Methodist Church has been such a center for the Wakefield section of the Bronx.

The church was founded in 1875 when that small community was known as Washingtonville. The neighborhood worshippers decided that the only Methodist churches in the area were too far away to walk to with children and started to meet in the first floor of a dwelling at 241st Street and Richardson Avenue. When the Sunday school reached an enrollment of 91 it was decided to erect a building for the church.

The pragmatism of the neighborhood showed itself again when they disassembled a church building in Mount Vernon, where that congregation was building a new church, and reassembled it on land donated for their worship. And in 1887 the cornerstone of the rebuilt church was laid.

The present parsonage was built in 1911 and 2 years later a neighboring building was bought and turned into the social hall. The church has also had adversity; one tower was struck by lightning in 1927, setting it on fire, and in 1989, only 2 days before Christmas, a fire destroyed the stained glass windows and the organ. Despite this, the church has served as an anchor to the people of the area.

The church today, under the guidance of Bishop Ernest S. Lyght and the Rev. Allen N. Pinckney, Pastor, continues to serve as a beacon to the area, allowing the spiritual and temporal values of the neighborhood to grow and prosper.